

## REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated February 16, 2005, having a shortened statutory period set to expire May 16, 2005.

In paragraph 1 of the present Office Action, the Figure 1 is objected to for failing to include appropriate text labels. In response, Applicant has proposed amendments to Figure 1 to include the appropriate text labels. The proposed amendments do not contain any new matter.

Next, in paragraphs 2 and 4 of the present Office Action, Claim 32 is objected to as indicating an incorrect dependency, and Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite for failing to provide antecedent basis for the recited LAN adapter. In response, Applicant has amended each of Claims 32 and 27 to address the objection to Claim 32 and rejection of Claim 27.

In paragraph 6 of the present Office Action, Claims 1-2, 6, 8, 11, 17-18, 22, 24 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,535,513 to *Kao et al.* (*Kao*). That rejection is respectfully traversed, and favorable reconsideration of the claims is requested.

Applicant respectfully submits that exemplary Claim 1 is not unpatentable in view of *Kao* because *Kao* does not teach or suggest the following feature of exemplary Claim 1:

each of said plurality of network adapters includes a serial communication controller including:

means for converting data frames into a bit stream of serial data before transmitting said serial data to said crossbar switch; and

means for converting a bit stream of serial data received from said crossbar switch into data frames of parallel bytes before transmitting said data frames toward an attached network.

With respect to the claimed "serial communication controller", paragraph 6 of the present Office Action cites switch control card 212 of *Kao's* Figure 2. However, *Kao's* switch control

## **DRAWINGS**

Please amend Figure 1 as indicated in the attached replacement sheet.

card 212 fails to teach or suggest a number of features recited in exemplary Claim 1. For example, *Kao*'s switch control card 212 is not included within "each of said plurality of network adapters" as recited in Claim 1. Instead, switch control card 212 is external to NMC1 202 and NMC2 204, which the Examiner relies upon as teaching the claimed plurality of network adapters.

In addition, *Kao* nowhere teaches that switch control card 212 (or any other element of his invention) includes "means for converting data frames into a bit stream of serial data" and "means for converting a bit stream of serial data received from said crossbar switch into data frames," as recited in exemplary Claim 1. Instead, *Kao* discloses at col. 3, lines 30-36 that switch control card 212 "contains functionality for establishing, routing, and managing virtual circuit connections between the ports of the switch apparatus." *Kao* further fails to teach or suggest any other mechanism for performing the recited conversion of data frames into a bit stream of serial data or the conversion of a bit stream of serial data into data frames.

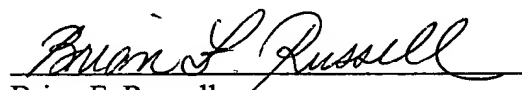
Because *Kao* does not teach or suggest each feature recited in exemplary Claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that *Kao* cannot render Claim 1 and the claims dependent thereon unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or § 103. The foregoing arguments made with respect to Claim 1 are also believed to overcome the rejections of similar Claim 17 and its dependent claims.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indicated allowability of Claims 3-5 and 19-21.

Having now responded to each objection and rejection set forth in the present Office Action, Applicant believes all pending claims are now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests such allowance.

Please charge IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. **50-0563** in the amount of \$100 for two additional claims in excess of 20. No additional fee is believed to be required. If, however, any additional fees are required, please charge those fees to IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. **50-0563**.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Brian F. Russell", is written over a horizontal line.

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